

the Second Amendment, that Americans should be allowed to possess firearms in order to defend themselves as members of state militias.

Regardless of the intentions of the Second Amendment, the wording itself is rather vague. It does not specifically state in the Bill of Rights the extent to which firearms should be allowed. Therefore, it seems that simply from reading the Bill of Rights and without accounting for other factors, the possession of firearms can be limited although not prohibited altogether.

It is also important to remember that the Constitution was written with the awareness that it would be changed, that as the world progressed, new issues would become important and old issues would become less important.

We have repealed an amendment before and while I do not necessarily advocate repealing the Second Amendment, the amendments to the Constitution are not set in stone and if times change, the Constitution ought to change with it. Perhaps it is time to rethink the issue of gun freedom. Is the possession of a firearm a general necessity? Is the private possession of a handgun ever necessary? And, most importantly, do the risks of gun freedom outweigh the benefits?

IN CELEBRATION OF LAWRENCE MEINWALD'S 83D BIRTHDAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to call to the attention of our colleagues the birthday of an outstanding American and a resident of the town of Goshen in Orange County, NY, Mr. Lawrence Meinwald. On June 18, 1997, Mr. Meinwald will be celebrating his 83d birthday.

Mr. Meinwald was an immigrant from Warsaw, Poland, who came to the United States in 1920, when he was just a young boy. Mr. Meinwald spent 10 days on Ellis Island, being forced to remain there until our Government decided if the young immigrant should be permitted to stay. Luckily for him and for us, they allowed Mr. Meinwald permanent entry into the United States, where he has remained ever since.

Fourteen years ago, Mr. Meinwald and his wife, Carolyn, took a trip to Goshen, NY, looking for a haven from the hectic atmosphere of city life. They fell in love with the quaintness and historic character of the Goshen area and decided to make this country retreat their new home.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Meinwald and his wife set out to restore and revitalize their new community. The couple chose selected buildings in the village of Goshen which, although long neglected, had much promise for enhancement due to their architectural excellence and historic beauty.

Eight commercial buildings have been completely restored since Mr. Meinwald's arrival in 1983. Mr. Meinwald has installed elevators in all eight of the buildings, as well as creating other structural mechanisms designed to preserve the historical nature of the area. The most recent is an office building at 1 Railroad Avenue, so called due to its close proximity to the old Erie Railroad train station.

In celebrating Mr. Meinwald's 83d birthday, it is important to note that he has been a tre-

mendous asset to the Goshen community and to our entire region. In his restoration of the eight historic buildings in the village, he has provided both a great service to his community or his home and at the same time has found the small-town atmosphere that he was looking for.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in extending birthday greetings to an outstanding citizen of our community, Lawrence Meinwald of Goshen, NY.

TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of America on the occasion of their 85 years of service to our Nation's girls and young ladies.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America was founded in 1912 by Ms. Juliette Gordon Low, with 18 girls in Savannah, GA. Three years later the first group was established in Suffolk County, LI. In 1930, a noted environmentalist from Bellport, LI, Birdsall Otis Edney, became the first, and remains the only, Long Islander to be president of the Girl Scouts USA.

The mission of the Girl Scouts is to help all girls reach their full potential. To that end they teach girls to set and reach goals, improve their decisionmaking skills, appreciate the diversity of others, and to become leaders. Under the able leadership of its executive director, Marilyn Proios, and 8,360 adult volunteers, the Suffolk County Council provides this benefit to one of every four girls in Suffolk County, LI.

Next January, the Suffolk County Girl Scout Council will celebrate the 30th anniversary of its founding in Smithtown, LI. Since 1968, the Suffolk County Council has grown into the largest Girl Scout Council in New York State; serving 31,000 girls in Suffolk County. The Suffolk County Girl Scout Council is the largest youth-serving agency in all of Suffolk County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Girl Scouts of America for 85 years of outstanding service to the young women of the United States of America.

THANK YOU, FATHER DONALD LOUIS SHIRODA

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American public the retirement of a man who many residents of Michigan's Upper Peninsula think of as one of God's greatest blessings. Father Donald Louis Shiroda will retire from the priesthood at the end of this month after 37 years of dedicated service to the people and the communities of the Upper Peninsula.

After high school, Father Shiroda served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he

made the decision to become a Catholic priest. In 1950, he began seminary in Kitchner, Ontario at St. Jerome's, moving to Milwaukee's St. Francis Seminary 2 years later to study philosophy and finishing his theological training at St. John's in Plymouth in 1959. Father Shiroda then began his career as a priest serving as assistant pastor for St. Gregory Church in Newberry, MI.

Father Don has served numerous parishes and communities throughout the Upper Peninsula, subsequently administering to St. Thomas in Escanaba, St. Agnes in Iron River, St. Albert the Great in Houghton, Marquette's St. Christopher, Calumet's St. Paul the Apostle, Immaculate Conception in Iron Mountain, and the Sacred Heart Parish in L'Anse. In 1986, Father Shiroda was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Church in Sault Ste. Marie. He has been an example and leader of faith, human kindness, and the active living of God's love in the Sault area for the last 11 years. The people of the Sault have had the opportunity to know Father Shiroda's talents in many settings. Along with his service as Dean of the Sault Ste. Marie Deanery and Episcopal Vicar of the Eastern Region, he has also held terms as Sacramental Minister to Catholic Campus Ministry at Lake Superior State University and regularly performs mass at the Hiawatha Correctional Facility.

As Father Don recently stated about his community, "I love the people of the Sault, not only the Catholics, but everyone. I have just as many non-Catholic friends as I do Catholic. I'm a people person. I also greatly enjoy my work with children and working up in long-term care. I really enjoy those people. I wasn't any place longer than 5 years until I came here." The people of the Sault, and all across the Upper Peninsula love and enjoy Father Shiroda and it will be with a heavy heart that they witness the end of his distinguished pastoral career.

Father Don's last Sunday Mass will be said June 29, 1997, 37 years and 3 weeks after his first Mass was held in Newberry. Fortunately, he will not be saying goodbye to the area, but plans on continuing his ministry. "I'm going to reside in the Sault and help where help is needed," he has said. "People of the Sault are all people of God regardless of their denomination."

Mr. Speaker, Father Don Shiroda truly has been a blessing for the people of the Upper Peninsula and the Sault Ste. Marie area. As a practicing Catholic, I know the importance and value of priestly leadership and direction. Father Don is an example to all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic, because of his compassion and concern for the community and the people who surround him. Not only is he a spiritual model, but also a model American citizen and for this he deserves our recognition and praise.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all the residents of Michigan's First Congressional District, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Father Donald Louis Shiroda on his retirement, thank him for his dedicated service, and wish him well in his endeavors yet to come.